THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No Sorting offices catering to the needs of rural people for expeditious delivery of dak, have been abolished or withdrawn under Orissa Postal Circle during the year 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Post Office facilities to Gram Panchayats in Orissa

1721. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Gram Panchayats in Orissa which do not have post offices ; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) There are a total of 80 Gram Panchayats which do not have post offices in the State of Orissa as per latest information available.

(b) The expansion of postal network is a continuing process. New post offices are opened in the rural areas of the country keeping in view the prescribed population, income and distance norms as well as availability of funds with the aim of progressively covering all the areas where opening of a new post office is justified as per the norms.

Providing P.C.O. Telephones to the Villages

1722. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ensured that all villages with more than 1000 population would be provided with a P.C.O. telephone ; and

(b) what is the statewise provision for P.C.O.'s in villages by the department ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat Villages by 31st March, 1995 and other Villages by 2000 A.D. progressively irrespective of population, subject to availability of resources.

(b) The details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of Panchayat Telephones as on 1-4-1992

Serial Number	State	No. of Panchayat Villages with Telephone facility as on 1-4-1992.
1	Andhra Pradesh	10,134
2	Assam	665
3	Bihar	4,313
4	(i) Gujarat	3,937
	(ii) Dadra Nagar, Daman & Diu	16
5	Haryana	2580
6	Himachal Pradesh	924
7	Jammu & Kashmir	472
8	Karnataka	4,441
9	Kerala	982
	L. Deep Island	
10	Madhya Pradesh	8292
11	(i) Maharashtra	6569
	(ii) Goa	162
12	*North—East*	
	(i) Arunachal Pradesh	69
	(ii) Manipur	82
	(iii) Meghalaya	124
	(iv) Mizoram	22
	(v) Nagaland	12
	(vi) Tripura	167
13	Orissa	2531
14	Punjab	1930
15	Rajasthan	3735
16	Tamil Nadu	7842
	Pondicherry	
17	Uttar Pradesh	6428
18	(i) West Bengal	1507
	(ii) A. & N. Islands	17
	(iii) Sikkim	37
19.	Delhi U. T.	182
		68,172